

LEXINGTON, N.C.
DISPATCH

EVENING 8,735

MAY 11 1961

BIRTH OF AN INVASION

"THE U. S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY moved into the confused and fragmented Cuban-exile situation in May of 1960, when there was no longer any doubt that Castro's ties with the Communistic bloc represented an active threat to the rest of Latin-America and, by extension, to the United States."

This statement appears in an article by Stuart Novins of CBS News, published in the current issue of The Reporter magazine of news and comment. In the following paragraph, Mr. Novins makes this assertion:

"With the approval of President Eisenhower, who had listened carefully as Vice President Nixon urged action against Castro, the CIA began to plan its operation to overthrow Cuba's Maximum Leader. There is ample indication now, looking backward, that once the operation had been approved, the cloak of secrecy kept even the White House from full knowledge of what was going on."

The article then goes into detail in describing the course of the CIA in setting up the invasion effort that failed so miserably to obtain its objective. It never had a chance, according to this account.

Another article by Douglass Cater and Charles L. Bartlett, nationally known writers, points out that as early as last December some publications began to run stories about the training camp in Guatemala and thus Castro had ample advance information of what was being planned. Other stories have indicated that Castro actually had spies in this and other training grounds to keep him informed so that he could prepare his defenses.

It is observed that during the past week Richard M. Nixon, who was vice president at the time mentioned and became his party's candidate for president, has made some critical observations aimed at the present national administration. Allen Dulles, who was retained as head of CIA by President Kennedy, was evidently present at the conference where the then Vice President Nixon reportedly advocated the effort that resulted in failure.

If Mr. Nixon was kept informed of the course of preparations until he left office in late January of this year he is not in position to do much criticizing. And if his trusted associate, Mr. Dulles, had not kept him posted he is hardly justified now in making critical statements before political gatherings. At least Mr. Nixon reportedly participated at the birth of the idea that came a cropper. Surely silence would befit him better at this juncture.